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The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

National Intelligence Council

NIC #02086-87/1
26 May 1987

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Intelligence Community Staff

FROM: Maj Gen Frank B. Horton III, USAF
Chairman

SUBJECT: Proposed NIC Paper on Future Signals Environment

1. After considerable discussion with your staff concerning the subject study, per our telephone conversation the National Intelligence Council will not be able to complete the proposed study, at least as requested by your staff. We recognize the importance of providing the best basis possible for future SIGINT planning, but the combination of the time horizon, certainty, detail, and scope of the requested projections, and competing demands on our resources indicate that we must reconsider.
2. It has been suggested that a more limited approach might be both more doable and still acceptable. For example, some have proposed that it might be useful if we would at least update "A View of the Future,"
- E. It should be noted that in writing "A View of the Future," our goal was to demonstrate the wide range of possible developments rather than to predict particular ones. Something similar might be done by a contractor who specializes in futurist studies, or by NSA in a more heavily technical vein. Such a paper might help to bound the problem and provide a general framework of possibilities for sensitivity analysis and hedging.
3. We would prefer and suggest another approach, however, that we believe would provide a better basis for planning. Specifically, the project could be disaggregated into issue areas of more limited technological and geographic scope, which could then be addressed individually. If you wish, we would be willing to work with you in such a process and, when key intelligence questions are raised, to identify elements in the Intelligence Community (including, perhaps, the NIC) which could be asked to address them.
4. I will be happy to discuss this matter further with you at your convenience, and we stand ready to assist with a more narrowly scoped, disaggregated project.

Very respectfully,


Frank B. Horton III~~SECRET~~

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This memorandum replaces NIC #02086-87 dated 14 May 1987

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